UNDRO DHA

November/December 1992

- Arms for Peace in Somalia
- Floods in Albania and Montenegro

NEWS
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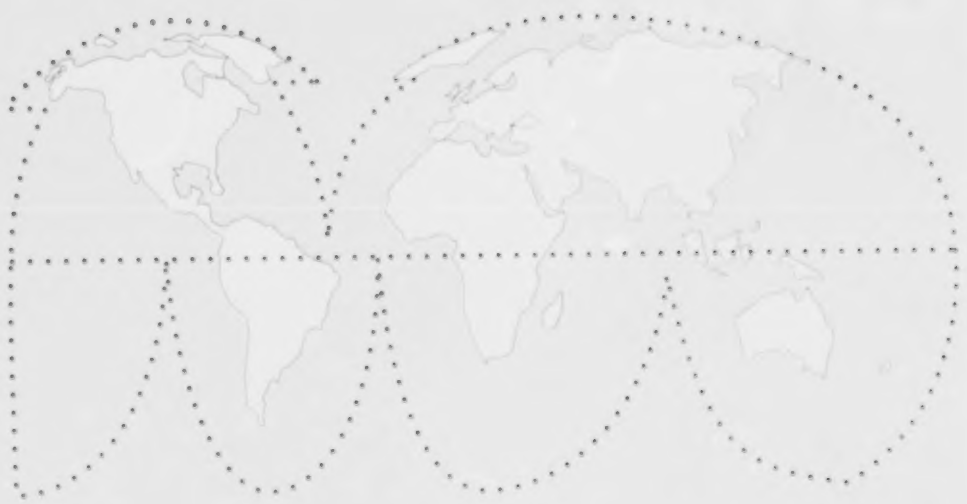

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Editorial

Tout au long de l'histoire, partout dans le monde, les populations ont été déracinées par la persécution, la guerre ou les catastrophes naturelles. Bien des maux dont souffre l'Humanité aujourd'hui sont vieux comme le monde mais, combinés avec des tensions économiques et sociales et la recrudescence de conflits ethniques ou communautaires, leurs effets sont sans précédent. Face à ces "catastrophes", l'Etre Humain n'a jamais été à la fois aussi fort et aussi vulnérable. Alors qu'il n'a jamais exercé autant de pouvoir sur sa planète et sa destinée, il n'a jamais été aussi proche de son auto-destruction ainsi que de celle de son environnement.

L'escalade de la violence est une caractéristique de notre temps. Plus de 150 conflits armés régionaux ont éclaté depuis la fin de la seconde guerre mondiale, faisant plus de 20 millions de victimes. On estime aujourd'hui qu'un quart de la dette du Tiers Monde est due à l'acquisition d'armes. En 1990, on estimait que le monde n'avait pas connu plus de 26 jours de paix totale depuis 1945. La population civile est la plus touchée par les conflits armés contemporains. Au cours de la première guerre mondiale, 5% du total des victimes étaient des civils tandis qu'aujourd'hui leur nombre dépasse bien souvent 75%.

Les Conventions de Genève de 1949 et l'adoption des Protocoles additionnels de 1977 qui renforcent la protection des personnes les plus vulnérables (réfugiés, apatrides, et surtout les enfants qui sont les victimes, de plus en plus nombreuses, des hostilités et agressions de toutes sortes), ont permis aux Nations Unies de mettre en place des structures régissant les principes d'un Droit Humanitaire International. Ceci n'était qu'un tout premier pas afin de protéger, avec le soutien de la communauté internationale, le nombre croissant des victimes de conflits ou de troubles internes de plus en plus fréquents. Mais les Etats considèrent parfois les normes humanitaires internationales comme une atteinte à leur souveraineté et une ingérence dans leurs affaires intérieures, d'où les faiblesses de plus en plus évidentes des institutions en place, au fur et à mesure que de telles situations se multiplient et se prolongent, dans bien des cas, en "contaminant" les pays voisins.

De tout temps, la violence des conflits armés a été entretenue par la disponibilité des armes, leur sophistication apparemment sans limites et leur profusion, même dans des pays où le minimum pour survivre n'existe pas. La reconversion de l'industrie d'armement à des fins pacifiques, par la mise en place de Conventions renforçant l'application du Droit Humanitaire doit, en cette fin d'année 1992, durant laquelle le monde n'a pas connu un seul jour de paix, être sérieusement prise en considération si l'on veut parvenir à renverser la "tendance suicidaire" dont notre planète est le reflet aujourd'hui.

Diverses résolutions des Nations Unies, adoptées par une majorité d'Etats Membres, réaffirment la résolution de 1961, condamnant l'usage des armes nucléaires. Cette même base juridique ne pourrait-elle pas également s'adresser à l'usage non seulement des armes de destruction massive mais à celui de toutes les armes dans le monde?

Arms for Peace in Somalia

In early December 1992, despite all the international efforts, in Somalia thousands of people were still dying every day. The World Food Programme, one of the UN agencies involved in the UN humanitarian assistance programme for Somalia, had 12,000 tons of food in warehouses in the port of Mogadishu and another 8,000 tons in the pipeline, but relief agencies had to reduce children's feeding and food distribution programmes because of lack of security. Ships carrying food were shelled, planes with medical supplies were looted, food convoys were attacked, and relief organisations were forced to pay fees for getting supplies through airports, seaports, and numerous roadblocks. It is in such a context, and in the absence of any central authority in the country, that what the Secretary General of the United Nations refered to as a "historical decision" had to be taken by the UN Security Council on 3 December 1992, allowing the use of all necessary means to halt famine and anarchy and bring an end to Somalia's agony.

At the 12-13 October meeting in Geneva on the **UN 100-Day Action Programme for Accelerated Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia,** it was agreed that there would be a follow-up conference to discuss the constraints to the implementation of the 100-Day Programme and to plan humanitarian assistance for 1993. This Follow-up Conference, convened by the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs, took place in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, on 3-5 December and was co-chaired by Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Jan Eliasson and the new Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia, Ambassador Ismat Kittani. **The Addis-Ababa meeting brought together, for the first time, a broad range of Somali groupings, including political leaders and elders, along with representatives of the international community:** Representatives of nine Somali political groups, Somali non-governmental organisations and 12 community leaders were present at the meeting, in addition to representatives of Governments, international non-governmental organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the United Nations system as well as regional organisations.

B. Campbell/UNICEF

"At the moment" said the President of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia, Mr. Ato Meles Zenawi * in his keynote address, *"**Somali society is at an advanced stage of disintegration rarely seen in modern history**; **"Those who are committed to help Somalia can do so only if they are committed to remain engaged for a long time"**.*

The establishment of a secure environment for humanitarian relief operations in the country as well as the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Somalia were at the heart of discussions during this three day-meeting. Going beyond the scope of the 100-Day Action Programme, participants agreed to the fact that security was the main prerequisite for the efficient tackling of those issues. *"**If there is no security, there will be no food, but without food***

**About 2 million Somalis are currently living in Ethiopia.*

there cannot be security", said Mr. Jan Eliasson.

On 3 December, the UN Security Council, authorizing the use of "all necessary means", including the use of force, to secure the deliveries of humanitarian aid to Somalia, decided to send, under the United Nations mandate, a unified military command to halt starvation and restore Somalia to its own feet. A few hours before the decision was made public, on the first day of the Addis-Ababa meeting, several addresses had welcomed an expanded UN presence in Somalia, including the deployement of a multinational force to "***halt starvation and restore Somalia to its own feet.***"

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND SECURITY

In light of the continuing disruption of relief operations in many parts of Somalia because of insecurity, the participants to the Follow-up Meeting recognised and accepted the importance of deploying humanitarian protection forces in Somalia, to ensure the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance to the population in need. It was recommended that the focus of humanitarian protection forces should be on the following areas: protection of key installations and gateways to Somalia (this includes ports, airports/airstrips and overland delivery routes); protection of the delivery process and protection of Somali and international workers as well as the beneficiaries of relief assistance.

"Emergency relief would be an exercise in futility by itself unless it was part of a process leading to rehabilitation, development and political reconciliation" (Mr. J. Eliasson).

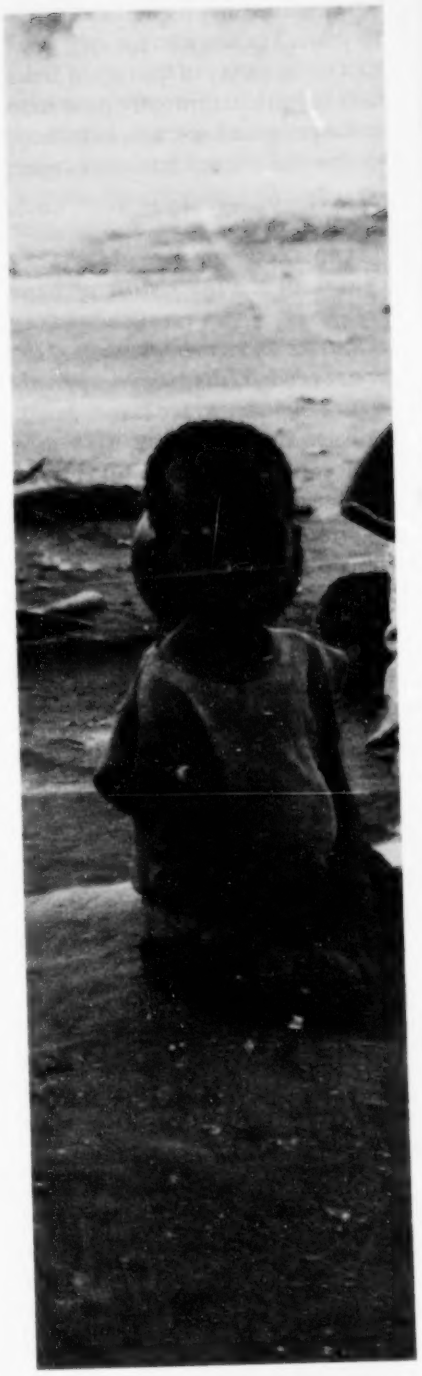
All participants agreed that the key to the eventual recovery of Somalia was the return to the rule of law, order and stability. In this respect the reduction of arms was fundamental. Participating Somali community leaders gave their commitment to collaborate with the UN in this disarmement process and proposed the initiation of public campaigns to promote demobilization of armed groups. A spokesman for the nine Somali political parties attending the meeting told the participants that the group had decided to speak with one voice, appealling to all Somalis to come together to solve their problems and to work for peace. He called on the international community to "***give them more time to prepare the grounds for reconciliation and an eventual reconciliation conference inside Somalia***" He also called on the international community for logistics support to realize that. A spokesman for the Somali community leaders reiterated the position of the political groups. Participants stressed that the implementation of the disarming process should be carefully considered, and that extreme care should be exercised by the multinational force in the disarming of the militias and gunmen.

COMPLETION OF THE 100-DAY PROGRAMME

The 100-Day Programme was reviewed and it was recognised that the original targets set out in the Programme needed to be reassessed. Assistance to the north of Somalia should be stepped up and in addition to food aid, greater efforts should be made on monetisation of food to stimulate the economy and encourage local food production. To better target relief assistance and monitor vulnerability, surveillance systems should be established. The Conference concluded, inter alia, that UNICEF should manage and coordinate health and nutritional assessments, FAO/WFP should handle domestic food production assessments and continuous monitoring. WFP should also undertake an immediate review of logistics capacity. UNOSOM should be responsible for coordinating the relief efforts and acting as the local point for UN agencies, donors and non-governmental organisations. It was stressed that Somalis themselves should be fully involved in the implementation of the Programme. "***Greater attention should be paid to attracting back to Somalia educated people, particularly those trained in the health sector, many of whom are presently in refugee camps in neighbouring countries***", recommended the community leaders. Considerable emphasis was also placed on the need to resettle displaced farm families to re-stimulate local food production. Towards that end, Somali participants emphasized the need for rural rehabilitation. As an additional step, to stimulate agricultural production, aid agencies were requested to purchase locally grown cereals for their programmes.

There is an urgent need to forge a comprehensive and an integrated rehabilitation and reconstruction master plan for a post-conflict Somalia. All concerned, notably the United Nations system, the donor community, the NGO's **and indeed the people of Somalia themselves** have a critical role to play in shaping and implementing this plan and thus ***"mark the beginning of the end of the destruction of the great country that was Somalia".*** ■

Peace in Mozambique ...



J.L. Friedrich/DHA-UNDRO

From Emergency to Reconstruction

Two and a half years ago, the Mozambican Government entered into direct negociations with the National Resistance Movement (RENAMO), under the mediation of the Italian Government and the Catholic Church. The negociations, which took place in Rome, led in December 1990 to a partial cease-fire agreement covering the Limpopo and Beira transport corridors. The negociations finally resulted in the signing, on **4 October 1992 in Rome**, of a **General Peace Agreement** by President Joaquim Chissano, on behalf of the Mozambican Government, an the leader of RENAMO, Mr. Alfonso Dhlakama.

At the Conference held in Rome on 15-16 December, on the implementation of the Peace Agreement, Mr. Jan Eliasson, representing the Secretary-General of the UN said that: ***"The signing of the General Peace Agreement is not an end in itself but only the beginning of a new set of challenges - to move from war to peace, to move from destruction to development, to move from despair to hope".***

While the establishment of peace and security will remove the original cause of the emergency situation, it will take some time to recover from the effects of the war. More importantly, it must be anticipated that ***millions of people, both internally displaced people and refugees*** returning from neighbouring countries, as well as demobilized soldiers from both armies, ***will seek to return to their homes*** in the rural areas, large parts of which have been semi-abandonned and now lack basic health, educational and social infrastructure. In addition, the rapidly improving access by road to formerly isolated areas gives the Government the possibility to respond to the needs of all Mozambicans.

Although the drought appears largely to have broken, the effects are still widespread and the ***Government of Mozambique must now meet the massive challenge of ensuring the survival of an estimated 3.86 million people*** still in need of emergency assistance, and of laying the groundwork for sustainable development and growth. The challenge to the international community is to strengthen Mozambique's capacity. New possibilities and needs have emerged which require different strategies and approaches

J.L. Friedrich/DHA/UNDRO

Distribution in Lugela, Zambezia (Central), July 1992.

to respond to the immediate and medium term requirements of the displaced and affected populations. With the exception of a few isolated incidents, an effective cease-fire has been maintained throughout the country. Road access is no longer conditioned by security considerations.

J.L. Friedrich/DHA-UNDRO

The more than five million Mozambicans who have been displaced by the war will now begin to resettle in their home areas. Some 1.5 million are refugees in neighbouring countries while others have been internally displaced within their own district or province. ***The immediate priority is to transform the Emergency Programme into the first phase of a reconstruction process*** in which inputs provide the necessary relief while at the same time enhancing rural rehabilitation. Nevertheless, food aid is the largest component of Mozambique's special requirements in the period of transition.

The effects of the Peace Agreement are already striking. In the south of the country, travel by road is now secure. Whereas relief convoys of the Department of Prevention and Combat of Natural Disasters (DPCCN), the Government relief agency, used to take up to a week to reach Inhambe province from Maputo because of the need for military escort, similar convoys of relief aid now reach Inhambe in two days. A bus service to Gaza province has been resumed after many years of interruption, allowing people to travel, sometimes for the first time in 10 years. Traders who for long years kept to the safety of the city of Beira have begun to return to the rural areas as the main road south from Inchope to the Save river has once again become safe to travel.

Other consequences of the peace agreement are ***the return of some refugees from neighbouring countries and the beginning of the process of displaced people returning to their home areas.*** However, many people still have reservations about returning to previously insecure areas and are waiting to be convinced that peace has already arrived.

Nevertheless, hopes and expectations are being strengthened more and more every day by reports in the media about fraternal contacts between Government authorities and RENAMO combatants.

Even though the peace agreement has opened up prospects for improvements in the emergency situation, the drought has caused a substantial increase in the numbers of Mozambicans in need of emergency assistance. The movement of people in search of relief has grown since May, when the additional appeal for emergency drought aid was launched.

Excerpts from the Mozambique Emergency Programme 1993-94 towards Reconstruction: prepared by the Government of Mozambique in collaboration with the United Nations. (December 92).

■

Flood Emergency in Albania

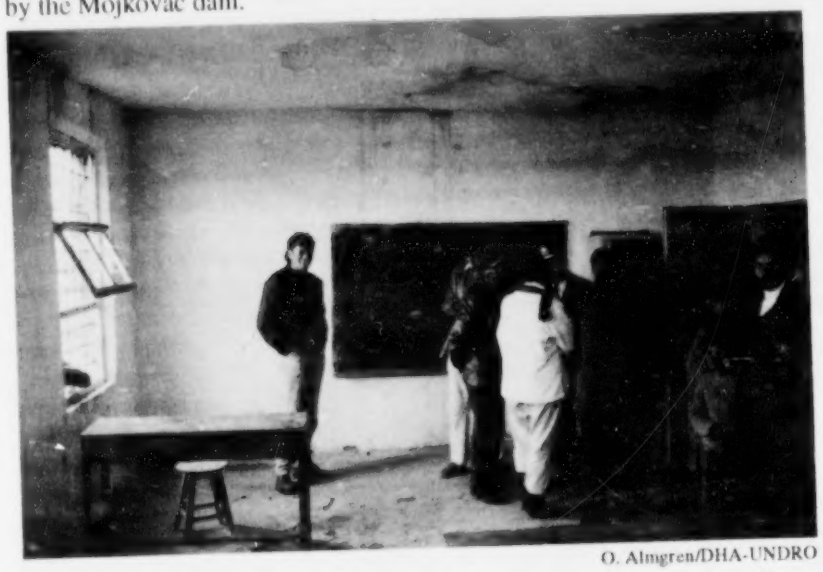
by O. Almgren, DHA-UNDRO

Albania, one of Europe's poorest countries, could well have done without floods, over and above the numerous problems the country is already facing.

In mid-November, three days of exceptionnally heavy rains in the northern parts of the country caused the Mat and Drin rivers to overflow and break their embankments, thus creating flash floods in the river valleys and low-lying agricultural areas down-stream, where these rivers join the Adriatic Sea. Six districts were affected by the floods: Kruja, Lac, Lezha, Shkodra, Tropoja and Mirdita. These are the same rains that caused the emergency in Montenegro, involving 300 million cubic metres of toxic waste retained by the Mojkovac dam.

O. Almgren/DHA-UNDRO

Between the Mat and Drin rivers, 17,000 hectares of agricultural land were inundated.



O. Almgren/DHA-UNDRO

The team followed the work done by the national authorities concerned in collecting all possible information from the affected areas.

The disaster struck a particularly deprived area where living-conditions are already very harsh, and where the most basic commodities such as food, clothing, and fuel are in short supply. The water washed away the belongings of many families, and destroyed food stored for the coming winter. When the waters receded, people returned to mud-filled homes, with whatever belongings they had left drenched and with few possibilities of replacing what had been lost.

DHA-UNDRO, in consultation with the Resident Co-ordinator in Tirana, dispatched a relief co-ordination officer to assist the United

Nations Disaster Management Team in Albania. The team helped the Government in assessing the situation and in drafting an appeal for international aid. At an early stage, a field visit was made to the affected districts in order to evaluate the damage. The team followed the work done by the national authorities concerned in collecting all possible information from the affected areas, some of which were cut off and impossible to access.

A situation report containing an appeal for international assistance was issued by DHA-UNDRO on 24 November. In addition to allocating an emergency grant of US $25,000, DHA-UNDRO used its wharehouse facility in Pisa, Italy, to dispatch an airlift containing 18 tons of relief supplies such as blankets, family kits and plastic sheeting.

The death toll was limited to 11 people, thanks to a dramatic rescue operation, involving helicopters and all other available means to rescue people from roof tops where the water could not reach them. In all, 7,000 families were affected. The floods caused havoc to buildings and infrastructure. In the low fertile area along the Adriatic coast and between the Mat and Drin rivers, 17,000 hectares of agricultural land were inundated and it is feared that next spring's harvest will have been compromised in a country which needs every grain it can produce.

It is probable that the floods were caused not only by the excessive rains but also by technical failure in the dam systems along the two rivers. This problem is being studied carefully, with the support of international assistance, to prevent a similar disaster when the next heavy rains occur, or during next year's spring floods.

The Albanian population faces a long and harsh winter during which, for many, survival will depend on international assistance in which many countries and organizations are participating. For those living in the flood affected areas, one more disaster has been added to an already tragic situation. ■

Albania: Country profile

The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Albania is bounded by the former Yougoslavia to the north and east, by Greece to the south and by the Adriatic Sea to the west. The population of the country which has an area of 28,748 sq. km is composed of 3.18 million people, including a minority of Greeks (approx. 59,000) and Macedonians (approx. 4,700).

The capital is Tirana. Albania gained independence in 1912 after 450 years of Turkish rule. It was occupied by Germany and Italy during World War Two but liberated by Albanian partisans in 1944. During almost fourty years of stalinist rule under the leadership of Enver Hoxha, Albania sided with the former Soviet Union (relations broke down in 1961) and then with China (relations broke down in 1977/78). Proclaimed by Enver Hoxha as the "only true communist country", Albania lived in total isolation from the rest of the world for many years. In April 1985, following Hoxha's death, Ramiz Alia, President of the Presidium of the National Assembly, pledged to follow the same path as his predecessor, although the country showed signs of breaking its almost total isolation. Two extra border crossings to Greece opened in 1985 and freight transport to Italy was expanded. The popular revolutions that spread through East and Central Europe in 1989 appeared to have passed Albania by, but in July 1990, following the Government's decision to boost the role of the market in setting wages and prices, thousands of Albanians seeking to leave the country stormed embassies, and were permitted to leave for West Germany, Italy and elsewhere (the right for Albanian citizens to apply for a passport was announced in May 1990).

The country's economy, one of Europe's poorest, relies on the processing of agricultural raw materials, textiles and oil products, and exports of ore, ferro-chrome, copper wire, tobacco and cigarettes, timber, textiles and foodstuffs. Industry was completely nationalized under the Communist regime, but since July 1990, individuals have been permitted to own craft business. The former Yugoslavia used to be Albania's main trading partner.

(Source: Reuter; The Statesman's Year-Book 1992-93)

Overflow of River Tara Following Flash Floods in Northern Montenegro

Once again a region already affected by a complex emergency situation has been hit by a natural disaster: In October 1992, heavy rainfall caused flash-floods in northern Montenegro, one of the Republics of former Yugoslavia. More than 6000 people lost their homes, roads and bridges were washed away, and large parts of the electrical and communications networks were destroyed. Moreover, the first assessment of damages revealed the threat of an even worse disaster:

Northern Montenegro is known for the unique scenery of its high mountains, river canyons, and almost 100'000 hectares of natural parks. The river Tara, classed by the World Biosphere Reservation Network of UNESCO as one of the world's cleanest rivers flows within this parkland. It is right on the banks of this river, in the small town of Mojkovac, that a tailings dam holding back some 3,5 million cubic meters of slimes from lead and zinc mines was severely damaged by the floods. Should the highly toxic slime leak into the river, horrendous damage all along its course could not be averted: zinc is poisonous for all plants, and lead is highly toxic for animal and human life. The area threatened is unpredictable, because the Tara is - through the Drina and the Sava river - a tributary of one of Europe's greatest rivers, the Danube.

First assistance to the flood victims, which include refugees from neighbouring regions affected by the conflict in former Yugoslavia, as well as numerous Montenegrins who lost their jobs in other parts of the country and returned home, was provided by the local authorities and the National Red Cross Society. However, large scale assistance required the import of relief goods, materials and equipment to repair damages and, most of all, to prevent an ecological disaster along the Tara. Such importation is at present precluded by sanctions imposed by the Security Council against the Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and is only possible with special authorization from the Sanctions Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia. After the extent of the damage caused by the floods became apparent, the Government of Montenegro requested that an exemption be granted to permit importation of the required

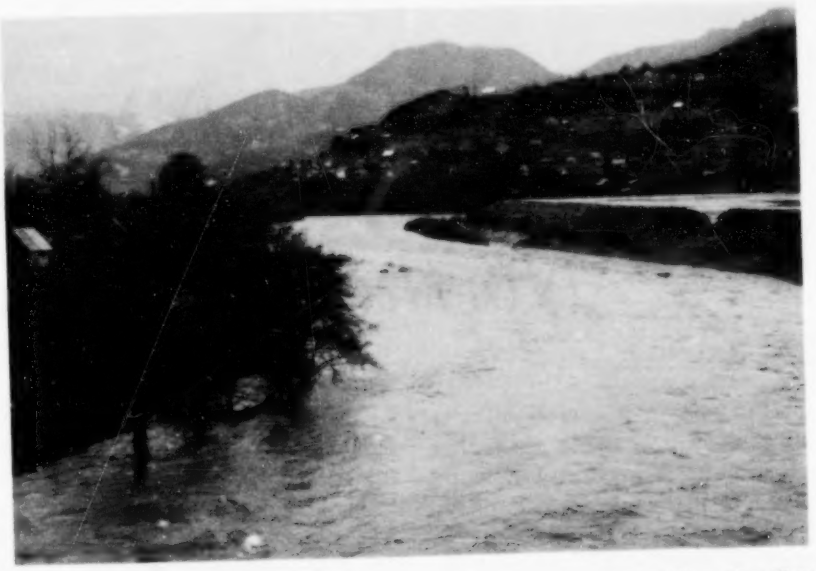
A. Krumdieck Photo

View of the damaged zone of the Dam from the other side of the River Tara on October 18, 1992.

assistance and materials. With the assistance of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in New York, the Sanctions Committee considered the request promptly and approved it in principle on the understanding that the provision of the required relief assistance would be co-ordinated by DHA to ensure compliance with Security Council guidelines. Subsequently, DHA-UNDRO was given the task of identifying needs and potential donors/suppliers and monitoring distribution and use of the imported goods.

A Council of the European Communities assessment mission and DHA-UNDRO/U.N. Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance (UNCUEA) joint mission, which included civil engineers specialized in dam constructions as well as eco-toxicologists, visited the area in November and were shocked by the condition of the dam. Emergency measures to prevent further damage to the base of the dam were drawn up. The Council of the European Communities provided funds for the first stage of the operation and the Sanctions Committee took a quick decision, on a request by DHA-UNDRO to allow the immediate air-lifting of 25 metric tons of wire-mesh cages from Italy. The cages were filled with crushed rock and gravel and to allow the rapid construction of small dams to divert the current. With the full support from the Government of Montenegro local contractors worked around the clock in spite of the difficulties to get light bulbs to illuminate the site at night - due to the scarcity of items because of the sanctions. Meanwhile soil and water samples taken by the experts were analyzed in Geneva and Brussels and they indicated an even higher toxicity of the waste material than anticipated. Two engineers, seconded to DHA-UNDRO by the Swiss Disaster Relief Unit (SDR), as well as a DHA-UNDRO Liaison Officer, were sent to Podgorica to assist in the relief operations and to monitor the implementation of the programme.

Top priority must still be given to the prevention of an even greater disaster which could be caused by the toxic waste, as well as to rendering assistance to the affected population and covering unmet needs. DHA will continue to assist in obtaining the necessary authorizations for the import of urgently needed relief goods. However, beyond immediate humanitarian assistance, a long-term solution for the toxic waste disposal site remains to be found. In Montenegro, which declared itself an "Ecological State" not long ago, an ecological time-bomb keeps ticking. ■



A. Krumdieck Photo

Overflow of River Tara.

A. Krumdieck Photo

The construction of a new building has diverted the floods straight through the old building. (1 persons was killed).

DHA-UNDRO at WORK

16 October - 11 December 1992

● **Albania - Floods:** Three days of exceptionally heavy rains in Northern Albania caused the overflow of the Mat and Drin rivers, which resulted in extensive floodings of the Districts of Kruja, Lac, Lezha, Shkdora, Tropja and Mirdita. The floods affected 6,000 families, and killed seven people. They also damaged 1,546 houses (216 destroyed) eight schools, bridges, river banks and irrigation networks. 17,000 ha of agricultural land were inundated. DHA-UNDRO issued four Situation Reports, made an emergency grant of US $25,000 and orgar ized an emergency flight from its Pisa warehouse. *(See article on page 7).*

● **Bolivia - Mudslides:** The gold mining camp of Lippi, in Larecaja Province, 285 km North of La Paz, was buried by a mudslide following torrential rains, on 8 December. Rescue operations started the same day but were made difficult by continuous rains in an area already difficult to access. On 11 December, it was estimated that 300 people were killed and over 400 were made homeless. DHA-UNDRO organized a Disaster Management Team meeting on 9 December with the participation of WFP, WHO/PAHO, UNDCP and Civil Defense, to plan relief activities. As at 11 December two Information Reports had been issued. On 15 December, the Bolivian Government made a request for International Assistance.

● **Egypt - Earthquake:** A debriefing for DHA-UNDRO staff and donor country representatives was given on 30 November at the Palais des Nations by two civil engineering specialists who had undertaken a survey of structural damage following the recent earthquake in Cairo and had formulated recommendations on how to enhance disaster mitigation capacity at the national level. The mission was financed from a Swiss contribution. The total contributions announced to, or given through the Office exceeded US $200 million.

● **Georgia - Earthquake:** On 24 October, an earthquake measuring 6.7 on the Richter scale shook Northern Georgia, next to the Russian border. Due to the remoteness of the epicenter and the difficulties in communication with the affected area, DHA-UNDRO was helped by the UN Amateur Radio Station in New York in gathering information on the damage. DHA-UNDRO issued one Information Report.

● **Indonesia - Earthquake/Tsunami:** On 12 December, an earthquake, followed by a huge tsunami hit Flores Island and some nearby islands, in Eastern Indonesia. 1,895 people were killed (latest official figures) and 250,000 were made homeless. The Indonesian Government has declared this a national disaster and made a request for international assistance on 15 December. Immediately after the disaster, the Office was in contact with the national authorities and the UN Resident Co-ordinator, to assist in the co-ordination of relief assistance, and make an assessment of the immediate relief needs. DHA-UNDRO made an emergency grant of US $30,000 and dispatched an expert on a joint mission with the US Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to assess needs for shelter, in collaboration with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC).

● **India - Floods:** Torrential rains triggered by a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal hit the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in mid-November. Floods and landslides caused widespread damage. 309 people were killed, and tens of thousands of houses damaged. The national and state governments organized relief and rescue operations. No appeal for international assistance was made. However, spontaneous assistance in kind or in cash could be channelled through the Indian Red Cross or the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

● **Kyrgyzstan (Republic of) - Earthquake:** The utilization of almost US $500,000, received in response to an appeal in favour of earthquakes in May and September 1992, was discussed in Geneva on 2 December with the Minister of Health of the Republic.

● **Liberia:** In November, the Office launched a special emergency appeal for displaced persons to the amount of US $7.5 million. This appeal was prepared by the Office of the Special Co-ordination for Emergency Relief Operations in Liberia.

● **Montenegro:** A DHA-UNDRO delegate, accompanied by an ecotoxicologist of UNCUEA and two civil engineers made an assessment of the flood damage in the Northern region of Montenegro in November. Twenty-five metric tons of construction materials for the repair of a tailings dam were airlifted on two flights with a C-130 plane of the Belgian Air Force on 26-27 November. Two engineers, seconded to DHA-UNDRO by the Swiss Disaster Relief Unit (SDR) were supervising the emergency repair work and a DHA-UNDRO delegate is monitoring the implementation of the programme of humanitarian assistance to the flood victims in order to ensure compliance with the conditions for the import of relief goods as defined by the UN Sanctions Committee for Serbia and Montenegro. *(See article on page 9).*

● **Philippines - Volcanic Eruptions/Lahars:** The Government of Luxembourg made a contribution, through DHA-UNDRO, of US $98,000 for relief assistance to the victims of the lahar flows from Mount Pinatubo. This contribution was used to assist 2,307 families (10,817 persons) in several evacuation centers in Tarlac and Pampanga provinces. The relief goods distributed in co-operation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development included mosquito nets, blankets, mats, soap and clothing.

● **Saint Vincent (Caribbean Islands):** After heavy rains, Saint Vincent was affected by extensive floods in late November/early December. The airport had to be temporarily closed, coastal roads were blocked by landslides and a river burst its bank, causing the death of three children. The Government coped with the situation without calling for international assistance. DHA-UNDRO issued an Information Report.

● **Somalia:** Two Telecommunications Specialists, seconded to DHA-UNDRO by the Swiss Disaster Relief Unit (SDR), have completed their mission, installing communications equipment which is a vital element for the safety and security of UN and NGO personnel in Mogadishu. One Logistics Expert, also seconded by SDR, has been assigned to the UNOSOM Mogadishu Unit implementing the 100-Day UN Action Programme for Accelerated Assistance for Somalia.

● **Viet Nam - Flood/Typhoon Angela:** The cumulative effects of torrential rains and Typhoon Angela, in October, affected a total number of 230,000 people. The six provinces of Quang Tri, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Quang Ngai, Quang Binh and Quang Nam Da Nang were the most severely affected ones. The Government appealed for international assistance on 16 October. DHA-UNDRO issued this appeal to the international community, asking for cash contributions for the local purchase of urgently needed relief supplies. As at 17 November, a total of US $465,000 in contributions had been reported to DHA-UNDRO A further US $440,000 were still needed to respond to the most urgent needs of the victims.

● **Register of Disaster Management Expertise Update:** In line with earlier decisions, DHA-UNDRO has established a questionnaire with the aim to collect data on rosters of persons and teams available for delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance to be included in the Register of Disaster Management Expertise.

This data, carefully defined in agreement with participating partners, will contain pertinent information on a number of key items concerning the rosters, e.g. the names of rosters, host organizations, 24-hour contact points, fields of expertise covered, modalities of co-operation with the U.N., other organizations and with disaster affected countries.

The questionnaire is being sent out to 101 identified respondents (including 15 United Nations agencies, 4 inter-governmental organizations, 18 international non-governmental organizations and 64 national organizations in 37 countries) who are requested to return the completed questionnaire by 15 February 1993.

● **The First Workshop on Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief** took place at NATO Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium, on 14-15 December.

The Workshop has been organized by the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA-UNDRO) and co-sponsored by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The objectives of the Workshop are to develop guidelines and establish a central register of national military and civil defense resources available for use in life saving operations. Representatives of approximately 45 nations and 30 international organizations are expected to participate. A Press Release was issued on 11 December.

● **DHA-UNDRO Pisa Warehouse:** In November two emergency airlift operations for Montenegro and Albania, were carried out from the Warehouse. The first operation (Montenegro) with a C130 aircraft of Italian Airforce; and the second (Albania) with a C130 of the Belgian Air Force. Relief items included: tents, blankets, kitchen sets, plastic rolls and generators. Since the beginning of December, a total of seven relief shipments have been organized for Bosnia/Croatia and Albania.

● **Swiss Disaster Relief Unit:** A delegation from DHA-UNDRO visited the Headquarters of the Swiss Disaster Relief Unit (SDR) on 2 December to finalize a new agreement on co-operation between the two offices and to discuss details of the Swiss participation and support concerning various DHA-UNDRO projects.

Inter-Agency Co-operation

● **Armenia/Azerbaijan:** On 8 December, DHA-UNDRO launched an emergency appeal for Armenia and Azerbaijan totalling US $10 million.

This appeal covers preliminary needs of identified target groups in Armenia (UNHCR and UNICEF operations), and in Azerbaijan (UNHCR operations only). It will be updated to take into account a UNICEF emergency programme for Azerbaijan, WHO relief interventions and needs identified by a WFP/FAO mission to the field during the first half of December 92.

● **Mozambique:** Protocol VII of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique signed on 4 October 1992 in Rome contains a "request to the Italian Government to convene a conference of donor countries and organizations to finance the electoral process, emergency programme and programmes for the reintegration of displaced persons, refugees and demobilized soldiers". Taking into account the process of

implementation of the Peace Agreement and after negotiations with the Mozambican Government, the Pledging Conference was fixed for 15 and 16 December 1992 in Rome.

On 30 October 1992, the Italian Ambassador in New York requested DHA to participate in a mission of the Italian Government to prepare the documentation for the Pledging Conference. A senior relief co-ordination officer from DHA-UNDRO Geneva represented the Office in the mission, which took place between 4 and 13 November. This gave him the opportunity to review pending matters of DHA-UNDRO operations in Mozambique (stockpile project).

The joint mission Italian Government/United Nations (in addition to DHA, UNDP/OPS sent two representatives) brought back to Rome draft texts or basic documentation on the following topics: a) financing of the electoral process; b) support to registered political parties; c) requirements for the demobilization of soldiers; d) assistance in the emergency phase and towards the reintegration of returnees, internally displaced persons and demobilized soldiers.

With regard to the Mozambique DHA-UNDRO stockpile project, it was decided, following the mission, to continue and expand it, to include it in the 1993 UN Emergency Programme for Mozambique and to present it at the World Bank Consultative Group Meeting in Paris on 8 - 9 December 1992 and at the Rome Pledging Conference. Steps were initiated during the mission to ensure its financing and implementation.

On 26 November 1992, DHA-UNDRO organized, at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, an Inter-Agency briefing on the Rome Conference by two high level Italian officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting, chaired by the Officer-in-Charge of DHA-UNDRO was attended by representatives of UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNV, UNHCR, UNICEF, ICRC and IOM. The same organizations (except for ICRC) were present at a second Inter-Agency Meeting at DHA-UNDRO on 3 December, in which Representatives of the Technical Co-operation Unit of the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs gave an updated debriefing on the preparations and schedule of the Conference.

● **Former Yugoslavia:** DHA has prepared a revised consolidated appeal for the former Yugoslavia, covering the needs for the remaining period of the 4 September appeal. Total resources requested for the period 1 January - 30 March 1993 to support the activities of UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, FAO, DHA, IOM and UNV amount to US $277,000,000. The appeal also includes a projection of the expected cost of the operation until the end of 1993. The revised appeal was launched at a meeting of the working Group on Humanitarian Issues and Refugee Matters of the London Conference on the former Yugoslavia which was held in Geneva on 4 December

Special Unit for Iraq

Following the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding on 22 October 1992, a new Plan of Action- combining specific activities of the Winter Plan for Northern Iraq and activities for the entire country - was issued on 2 November 1992 to cover the period until 31 March 1993. Overall financial requirements set forth in the Plan were estimated at some US $256 million. To date, US $75.4 million have been pledged/received.

83 new Guards (from Greece, the Czech and Slovak Republic and from UN Headquarters, Geneva) were dispatched on 10 November to strengthen the UN Guards' presence in the three northern Governorates of Iraq. 86 additional Guards from Denmark and Poland will travel to Iraq on 15 December 1992, thus bringing the overall strength of the Contingent to approximately 280 Guards.

To reinforce the co-ordination and logistic structure of DHA in the context of the channelling of commodities to the North of Iraq, the Chief, DHA/SUI, travelled to Iraq early November to assist in the initial co-ordination with Agencies and NGOs. As a result, two field delegates were assigned, in Suleimaniyah, Dohuk (Iraq) and one logistics officer as well as two convoy leaders were assigned to Diyarbakir (Southern Turkey) to assist Mr. R. Foran, Assistant-Secretary-General-IRCU, in the implementation of activities set forth in the Plan of Action.

10 million litres of fuel/kerosene were purchased during November by UNICEF - through CARE - for distribution in Arbil and Suleimaniyah Governorates. Another consignment of 8.7 million litres of fuel/kerosene will follow shortly. Furthermore, the Commission of the European Communities will provide an additional 25 million litres of fuel, to be channelled through UNICEF and CARE.

Other commodities, such as food, planting seeds, medicines and sanitation equipment are being distributed in all northern areas to assist the local populations to survive during the months of harsh winter ahead. Assistance is also being provided to the South of the country, with the provision of food, health and medical equipment (mostly by UNICEF and WFP). ■

Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa (SEPHA), Situation Report, November 1992.

This document, prepared by the SEPHA Unit, reports on the situation in the six countries of the Horn of Africa included in the SEPHA appeal process - *Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia and Djibouti*. It focuses on events during August, September and October, and in some cases, into part of November. While the report references specific UN agency activities, it attempts to select those that are most important, or indicative of major programme directions, rather than replicating the more detailed reporting done by the agencies themselves. This allows for space to be given also to identifying and characterizing the main existing and likely future needs in each country, the constraints to meeting these needs, and some indication of how UN agencies can address some of these needs.

DHA-UNDRO/UNDP
Disaster Management Training Programme

■ DMTP country workshops have been held recently in Kenya (28 October - 2 November); Mexico (17-19 November); Yemen (10-16 December).

■ The workshop held in Iran in September was successful in generating increased awareness in the higher echelons of decision-making in the country. Discussions have since been taking place concerning extended co-operation between the UN and the Iranian Government towards the strengthening of the country's disaster management capacity and increased public awareness. In this connection, Mr. Ghaffarzadeh, National Officer, UNDP Iran will visit Geneva from 14-18 December to familiarize himself with the DMTP working mechanism, receive introductory training on our information-sharing system and discuss possibilities of extended co-operation.

■ A DMTP briefing session was held in November for a group of UN volunteers about to leave for ex-Yugoslavia on a humanitarian assistance mission. Several DHA-UNDRO DMTP trainers took part and presentations were made on the background and objectives of the Programme, disaster assessment, displaced persons in civil conflict, information management and communications, international law in emergencies, logistics, and management of a complex emergency. This last presentation included the showing of a video which was greatly appreciated.

■ The joint management of the Programme (UNDP, DHA-UNDRO, University of Wisconsin DMC, and Intertect Training Services) held a co-ordination meeting in New York from 16-20 November.

■ In line with the Programme plans, two consultants were engaged in November to carry out a mid-term review of the DMTP concept, strategy and project design. Amongst other things, this will cover an assessment of its primary function; the effectiveness of the managerial framework and of co-ordination arrangements among project management and implementing partners; identification of current strengths and weaknesses; lessons learned; recommendations on follow-up measures and on improving DMTP effectiveness; and impact of training activities. The report will be finalized by the end of the year and forwarded to donor governments and concerned institutions.

UNIENET Corner

Information on the former Yugoslavia: As of November 1992, an abstract from the Exyugonet network is offered on UNIENET by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), including Situation Reports and Bulletin Boards for co-ordination of relief activities in the former Yugoslavia.

Internet-Bitnet gateway: Internet-Bitnet account holders can now communicate with UNIENET users and viceversa, as a gateway has recently been established. For example DHA's Registry in Geneva can be reached at the following Internet address:

UNX008@CGNET.COM (<Dimame>@CGNET.COM)

All the Disaster Management community on UNIENET becomes part of the Internet world. We invite UNIENET users to promote their e-mail addresses, in order to facilitate communications with their correspondents (e.g. in letter heads, publications, visiting cards, etc). Addresses must be expressed in the following format:

UNIENET	Dialcom	141:UNXxxx
UNIENET	Internet	UNXxxx@CGNET.COM

The first format will be used by correspondents on the Dialcom network, the second by correspondents on Internet or Bitnet.

New facilities on UNIENET: To reduce the communications and storage costs, several new features have been implemented:

Downloading information: Allows users to download the information to PC without having to read the information on-line.

Automatic e-mail deletion: As of February 1993 outstanding e-mail messages (either read or unread) will automatically be deleted from UNIENET mailboxes.

For the mailing system to be reliable it is particularly important, that registered users access the system regularly. We count on your support. Further information on these facilities can be found on UNIENET main menu (option 96).

We welcome the following new users:

ICVA Exyugonet system operator Geneva (UNX198), **WHO - Emergency Relief Operation Co-ordinator** (UNX030), and **WHO Library, Geneva** (UNX049), **Comisión Nacional de Emergencia, Costa Rica** (UNX043), **Ministry of Health , Indonesia** (UNX062), **NATO Purchasing & Contracting Div., Brussels** (UNX064).

One of our main objectives is to increase the number of members and your assistance in this regard would be welcome. Should you need information on UNIENET, wish to join the network or provide information, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will also provide you with the latest documentation, upon request.

Network System Manager
Dialcom 141:UNX002 - Internet UNX002@CGNET.COM
Tel: (4122) 9172661 Fax: (4122) 9170023

PLANIFICATION D'URGENCE ET GESTION DES CRISES

EN MILIEU SCOLAIRE

by Ron Kuban

Toute catastrophe peut entraîner, dans l'immédiat, de graves dommages sur les plans humain, matériel ou environnemental. Sans compter les effets à long terme et les séquelles qu'elle peut engendrer chez les victimes et leur famille.

Par une planification efficace et en apportant les correctifs appropriés, il est possible de prévenir ou, du moins, de limiter ces dommages. Etant donné l'importance de l'éducation en cette matière, les responsables scolaires ont un rôle de premier plan à jouer.

La planification d'urgence et la gestion des crises devraient en effet occuper une place importante dans nos écoles et cela, de quatre façons.

■ Les administrateurs scolaires doivent au moins faire en sorte que leur personnel ainsi que leurs étudiants soient préparés à faire face à l'éventualité d'une situation catastrophique, ce qui veut dire bien davantage que le simple exercice annuel d'évacuation en cas d'incendie.

■ Lorsqu'une catastrophe frappe une collectivité, l'école (c'est-à-dire les élèves, le personnel ainsi que les activités administratives et scolaires) peuvent en subir également les contrecoups d'une manière plutôt prévisible.

■ Afin de limiter les dommages causés par les catastrophes, les responsables scolaires devraient prendre part au processus de planification d'urgence de la collectivité. Compte tenu du leadership moral que les autorités scolaires peuvent avoir dans leur milieu, l'école et les ressources dont elle dispose peuvent devenir des composantes vitales dans le processus de rétablissement.

■ Les rapports entre l'école et la collectivité peuvent être intimement liés. Souvent, un sinistre s'abattant sur l'une aura d'importantes répercussions sur l'autre, même lorsque le sinistre en question survient en dehors des périodes scolaires.

ANSA Photo

Bâtiment en préfabriqué d'une école maternelle et primaire en Italie suite au tremblement de terre de 1980.

L'UNE DES CONSÉQUENCES IMMÉDIATES ET SIGNIFICATIVES DES SITUATIONS CATASTROPHIQUES EST L'ESPRIT DE COOPÉRATION QU'ELLES ENGENDRENT. A LA SUITE D'UNE CATASTROPHE, LES RESPONSABLES SCOLAIRES POURRONT COMPTER SUR LA COLLABORATION SPONTANÉE DES ÉTUDIANTS, DES MEMBRES DU PERSONNEL, DES CONSEILLERS SCOLAIRES, DES PARENTS, DES CITOYENS, DES AUTORITÉS MUNICIPALES, D'ORGANISMES BÉNÉVOLES ET DES MÉDIAS.

CATASTROPHES EN MILIEU SCOLAIRE

Les catastrophes en milieu scolaires peuvent être divisées en trois grandes catégories, selon qu'elles touchent la collectivité, l'organisation scolaire ou l'établissement.

Catastrophes touchant la collectivité : les tremblements de terre, les tornades, les inondations, les pollutions chimiques ou les explosions peuvent avoir un effet dévastateur sur une collectivité. De telles situations entraînent habituellement l'interruption des activités scolaires. Par exemple, l'école pourra très bien être utilisée à d'autres fins que celles auxquelles elle est dévolue. Et tant le personnel scolaire que les étudiants pourront être appelés à participer aux mesures d'intervention.

Quelles que soient les répercussions de la catastrophe sur l'école,

les jeunes éprouveront de l'appréhension et de l'inquiétude face à la situation, la crainte qu'une chose pareille ne se reproduise et autres sentiments de cette nature.

Catastrophes touchant l'organisation scolaire : il s'agit de situations dont les effets sont suffisamment prolongés pour interrompre l'activité scolaire. Dans cette catégorie, on retrouve notamment les graves inondations, des conditions météorologiques qui rendent les déplacement difficiles, l'évacuation massive de la population par suite d'un incendie de forêt ou d'une contamination chimique, les épidémies, les troubles sociaux et les grèves.

Catastrophes touchant l'établissement scolaire : on parle ici de catastrophes qui surviennent à l'école mais dont les effets sont ressentis dans l'ensemble de la collectivité. C'est le cas notamment des explosions, des incendies, des contaminations, des fusillades, de la prise d'otages et des autres situations critiques qui peuvent survenir à l'école.

TENIR COMPTE DES CONSÉQUENCES

Imaginons un instant une catastrophe dont l'ampleur soit "limitée", par exemple l'accident d'un autobus scolaire qui entraînerait la mort de tous les passagers. Vis-à-vis d'une telle éventualité, les responsables scolaires doivent se poser la question : "Quelles seraient les conséquences d'un tel incident s'il survenait chez nous?". Le terme "catastrophe" prend alors une nouvelle signification.

Prenons un exemple concret : la tragédie survenue à l'école primaire Cleveland de Stockton, en Californie, le 17 janvier 1989. Un individu armé est entré dans la cour de l'école et s'est mis à tirer à bout portant sur tous les enfants qui s'y trouvaient. Cinq d'entre eux furent mortellement atteints et 29 autres furent blessés. Les enfants de cette école, le personnel, les parents ainsi que les autorités responsables resteront probablement longtemps marqués par cet acte insensé.

Tao Tao (à gauche) et son petit ami sont nés tout deux l'année du tremblement de terre. Ils sont pris en charge par un orphelinat après la perte de leurs parents.

Li Yaodong Photo

Il existe une abondante littérature sur les effets que les personnes et les organismes doivent subir à la suite d'un sinistre. On y relate plusieurs genres de sinistres qui sont prévisibles, quels que soient les circonstances où ils peuvent se produire, le genre d'organisation en place et la situation géographique ou culturelle.

L'une des conséquences immédiates et significatives des situations catastrophiques est l'esprit de coopération qu'elles engendrent. A la suite d'une catastrophe, les responsables scolaires pourront compter sur la collaboration spontanée des étudiants, des membres du personnel, des conseillers scolaires, des parents, des citoyens, des autorités municipales, d'organismes bénévoles et des médias.

Plus le sinistre est important et plus il reçoit l'attention des médias d'information, plus il y aura d'organismes extérieurs sur lesquels les autorités scolaires pourront compter : services d'incendie, services policiers, équipes de sauvetage, services sociaux, services de santé, représentants gouvernementaux et organismes bénévoles.

Cette affluence d'intervenants entraîne elle-même une affluence de ressources qui est souvent nuisible. Il peut même arriver que tous ces articles encombrent les locaux ou la cour de l'école à un point tel que les responsables ont peine à en assurer une surveillance adéquate et à intervenir.

Lorsqu'une catastrophe touche l'ensemble de la collectivité, certaines questions de responsabilité civile et légale se posent avec acuité. Si une catastrophe survient au moment où les enfants sont à l'école, les responsables doivent se demander notamment :

- Les élèves doivent-ils être gardés à l'interieur de l'école ou leur permettrait-on de circuler dans la cour?
- A quel moment seront-ils autorisés à rentrer chez eux? (Compte tenu du fait que certains parents pourraient être victimes du sinistre ou manquer à l'appel.)
- Dans le cas où il y aurait des blessés ou une évacuation massive, comment les responsables de l'école vont-ils informer les parents?
- Qui sont, pour l'école ou le conseil scolaire, les personnes responsables de la planification et des interventions d'urgence?

Pour toute organisation faisant partie d'une collectivité touchée par un désastre, l'une des difficultés majeures consiste à assurer le maintien de la structure et des opérations de l'organisation malgré les perturbations causées par le sinistre.

Le plus souvent, en situation de catastrophe, les organisations sont déroutées et les réseaux normalement suivis pour les communications et la prise de décisions ne fonctionnent plus. Selon l'ampleur du désastre, il arrive souvent que certaines responsabilités des organisations publiques (y compris les établissements scolaires) soient prises en charge par les autorités municipales ou provinciales. Il arrive même que les décisions quant à l'utilisation des bâtiments soient prises par des autorités autres que les responsables de l'école.

Les conséquences adverses des catastrophes sont davantage compliquées par le chaos occasionné par le manque d'information. Qu'est-ce qui est arrivé au juste? Quelles sont les solutions possibles qui s'offrent aux responsables de l'école, maintenant et plus tard? Que faire pour remédier le mieux possible à la situation? Ces questions restent souvent sans réponse à la suite d'un sinistre.

Ecole temporaire dans la province de Hubei, en Chine, suite aux inondations de 1981.

L'ampleur du désastre, la multitude des intervenants et des ressources qui seront dirigés vers l'école ainsi que la perte d'autorité que pourrait subir l'administration de l'école placera celle-ci dans une position réactive. Pour prévenir une telle situation, les responsables scolaires auraient avantage à jouer un rôle actif dans le processus de planification d'urgence au sein de la collectivité. Ce faisant, ils seront mieux en mesure de participer à l'intervention d'urgence.

POUR TOUTE ORGANISATION FAISANT PARTIE D'UNE COLLECTIVITÉ TOUCHÉE PAR UN DÉSASTRE, L'UNE DES DIFFICULTÉS MAJEURES CONSISTE À ASSURER LE MAINTIEN DE LA STRUCTURE ET DES OPÉRATIONS DE L'ORGANISATION MALGRÉ LES PERTURBATIONS CAUSÉES PAR LE SINISTRE.

La communication est un aspect important de l'intervention d'urgence. Les responsables de l'école devront éventuellement rendre des comptes à des gens inquiets ou impatients, qu'il s'agisse de parents, de membres du personnel, d'étudiants, d'administrateurs scolaires, de représentants gouvernementaux ou de journalistes. A eux seuls, les médias peuvent faire de la situation un événement d'intérêt national ou même international. La difussion de la nouvelle et les réactions manifestées par les autorités scolaires peuvent avoir un impact significatif sur l'image de l'école, du système scolaire et de la collectivité.

ACTIVITÉS PRÉVENTIVES

La sensibilisation et la planification sont les deux piliers d'une bonne préparation aux situations d'urgence. Dans le milieu scolaire, cela veut dire qu'il faut reconnaître les risques en présence à l'intérieur comme à l'extérieur de l'établissement, les conséquences possibles d'une catastrophe sur l'école et les personnes qui la fréquentent et les moyens à prendre pour en réduire les effets.

EN CONCLUSION

L'école est une institution qui doit être solidaire de la collectivité, particulièrement en période de crise. Peu importe jusqu'à quel point une catastrophe ou une crise touche un établissement scolaire, ses responsables doivent toujours s'attendre à jouer un rôle spécial dans le cadre des mesures d'intervention : ils pourront ainsi contribuer à sauver des vies, à limiter les effets des traumatismes physiques ou psychologiques ou à atténuer les dégâts matériels.

Pour les établissements scolaires, l'éducation est le secret de la gestion des crises. Les responsables scolaires ont le devoir d'éduquer le public sur les catastrophes, leurs effets éventuels et les moyens à prendre pour gérer les situations de crise. La sécurité des élèves et du personnel exige de la détermination, une planification adéquate et des exercices de préparation appropriés.

Ron Kuban est directeur de la Recherche et du Développement à l'Ecole de formation des Services de sécurité publique de l'Alberta. Candidat au doctorat au département de l'éducation de l'Université de l'Alberta, il y effectue des recherches sur la gestion de crise.

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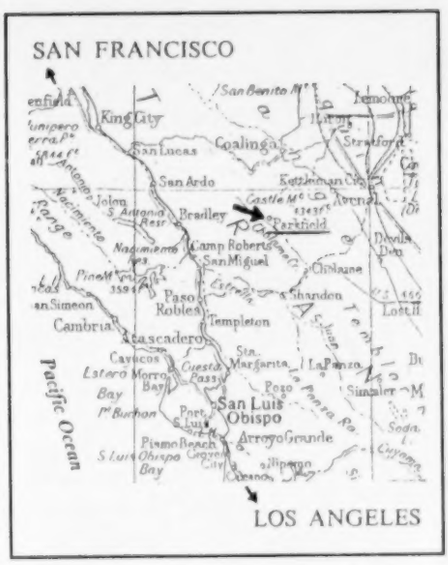
California Earthquakes

On 20 October 1992, half an hour after an earthquake measuring 4.7 on the Richter scale hit Parkfield, a tiny town lying 270 km southeast of San Francisco right on the San Andreas fault, a Level A alert was issued in the area. The U.S. Geological Survey warned that there was a 37 per cent chance that an earthquake of 6.0 or higher on the Richter scale could hit the area within the next three days. However, as time passed since the tremor, the U.S.G.S. downgraded its probability that there would be a quake of that magnitude in the next 48 hours to 15 per cent, but the maximum alert remained in force for Parkfield and for parts of six nearby counties.



The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

The Parkfield area is the most studied earthquake zone in the U.S. because scientists have noted a pattern that since 1857 an earthquake of 6.0 on the Richter scale has occurred in the area about every 22 years. Their warning was based on three previous major earthquakes preceded by ones identical in size to the 4.7 tremor that occurred in the night of 20 October.

According to Pat Jorgenson, of the U.S. Geological Survey, by studying quake patters in the 13 sq km Parkfield area, through seismometers, laser devices and other measuring equipment, scientists hope to make it easier to predict quakes in areas where the potential for structural damage and loss of life is greater.

Whilst the last major quake in this region in 1966 demolished the second floor of the town hall but caused little other damage, the worst California quake of this century hit San Francisco on 18 April 1906. It measured 8.6 on the Richter scale and was aggravated by violent fires, killing more than 500. The second largest quake, measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale, which hit Kern county (60 miles north of Los Angeles) on 20 July 1952, killed 12 and caused US $60 million damage. The next quake in importance (of a magnitude of 7.4 on the Richter scale) shook southern California and Los Angeles as far as the Mexican border, as well as part of Nevada, on 28 June 1992, killing one person and injuring many. Several buildings collapsed in the Joshua Tree community, close to the epicentre of the quake, and in other nearby desert communities.

On 17 October 1989, an earthquake of a magnitude of 6.9 on the Richter scale, the deadliest quake in the United States since 1906, shook the entire San Francisco Bay area, killing 67 people and injuring more than 600. Its epicentre was near Santa Cruz, 80 km south of San Francisco.

While most people in the USA consider earthquakes indigenous to the west coast rather than the east, they have occurred in New York state, the midwest and eastern Canada, mostly in the late 19th century. According to Klaus Jacob, an engineer at Columbia University, an earthquake of a 5.0 magnitude can be expected in New York city roughly every 100 years, the last one being in 1884. He added that the city was woefully unprepared for such an event, which would cause an initial US $25 billion in "shaking damage" only. He stated that whilst California was suffering earthquakes of 5.0 magnitude almost twice a year, that frequency compared to New York's one-in-a-hundred-year rate should not stop people from preparing!

(Source: Reuter)

This article has been written by the responsible of the Data Base/ DHA-UNDRO. ■

Conferences and Courses

The 1993 Simulation MultiConference
March 29th - April 1st 1993 - Arlington, Virginia
International Emergency Management and Engineering Conference
Research and Applications - Tenth Anniversary

This conference, organized and sponsored by the Emergency Management and Engineering Technical Activity Committee of the Society for Computer Simulation (SCS) in cooperation with the National Institute for Urban Search and Rescue and with the IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society will bring together users, planners, researchers, managers, technicians, response personnel, and other interested parties to learn, teach, present and exchange ideas and information about how, when, where, and why computer simulation and related tools can be used to avoid, mitigate, and recover from disasters and other emergencies.

Specific topics include: Natural disasters, Man-made disasters, Techniques, Application Areas.

For additional information concerning the conference, contact: Jim Sullivan at 214/888-8804; e-mail: gaa201@utdallas (BITNET) or gaa201@vm.utdallas.edu (INTERNET) or Ben Clymer at 908/493-4364. Address: Emergency Management and Engineering Conference (SMC 1993), c/o The Society for Computer Simulation, P.O. Box 17900, San Diego, California 92177, USA.

Emergency Planning '93
2nd International Conference
July 11th - 14th 1993 - Lancaster, United Kingdom

First call for papers on all aspects of Emergency Planning and Disaster Management. Parallel sessions and post conference workshops. Key dates. Abstracts to be received by 19th March 1993, camera ready copy of selected papers to be received by 17th May 1993. Further details from: Emergency Planning '93, Conference Officer, Bowland College, Lancaster University, LA1 4YT, United Kingdom, Tel.: 0524 - 65201 Ex.: 2180, Fax.: 0524 - 843695.

S.O.S. 93 - Health in Relief Operations
A training course for the management of Humanitarian Assistance
June 14th - July 2nd, 1993 - Geneva, Switzerland

This course is organized jointly by the International Committee of the Red Cross (Medical Division), the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Geneva (Unité de Santé Communautaire) and the World Health Organization (Emergency Relief Operation).

The following organizations have also been invited to participate: The Pan American Health Organization (Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief Coordination Programme), Washington D.C.; the League of the Red Cross Societies; the Swiss Tropical Institute, Basel, Switzerland.

The working language will be English and the course will take place at the Geneva Faculty of Medicine.

Goals and objectives: The purpose of this course is: to train experienced health personnel who may be called upon to deal with disaster situations; to develop a common approach allowing better programme coordination between the various humanitarian agencies involved; to select methods of assessment tailored to the specific emergency situation, and stimulate research in this particular field; to foresee the possible extension of immediate assistance projects into development programmes.

At the conclusion of the course, participants should be able to: plan and carry out a general or specific assistance programme and provide protection to victims if the need arises; supervise and conduct a team in the field; ensure an efficient and smooth-working relationship between all parties concerned and stimulate their active participation in disaster relief work.

Teaching methods and concepts: The course encompasses eight interrelated fields which cover most activities involved in emergency situations: Planning; Food and Nutrition; Environmental health; Communicable diseases; Health Services; Epidemiology; Natural Disasters; International Humanitarian Law.

A Certificate of attendance endorsed by the three organizing Institutions will be issued to all participants at the end of the course.

Applications must be received as soon as possible but at the latest by 1st March 1993.

For further information concerning the programme, please contact: International Committee of the Red Cross, Medical Division S.O.S. 93 (Geneva), 19, Avenue de la Paix, 1202 - Geneva, Switzerland, Tel.: 022 - 7346001 - Fax.: 022 - 7332057 - Telex: 22 269 A CICRCH. ■

Readers' Corner

Announcement from the National Landslide Information Center

From: Judy Denison,
Subject: National Landslide Information Center

Greetings! We'd like to acquaint you with the National Landslide Information Center (NLIC) of the U.S. Geological Survey, located in Golden, CO. We maintain databases and files for the benefit of landslide reserchers and planners. Our projects include:

1) Bibliographic file. We are building a computer database currently containing about 9000 bibliographic records. We have copies of about 4000 of these articles in our files. We will do bibliographic searches on request at no charge. We cannot, however, provide copies of these articles. Visitors are welcome to our center at 1711 Illinois, 3rd floor, Golden, Colorado, USA. We'd very much appreciate receiving copies of any of your articles you'd like included in our files.
2) World Landslide Inventory (WLI). We are currently building the Directory for the WLI, being produced in connection with the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. The first edition of this Directory was published in July, and contains 297 entries for landslide inventory contacts in 119 countries. This report is available printed, on microfiche, or on diskette.
3) Roster. We have an international roster of about 2100 persons interested in landslide research. We would welcome your name on this list (along with your area of interest).
4) Landslide dams. We have a global database on landslide dams and their physical characteristics.
5) Maps. We have files of published and unpublished landslide maps arranged by geographic region.
6) Photographs. We have uncatalogued photographic materials, including photographic prints, slides, and videos.
7) Other materials. We have newspaper reports from throughout the world; press releases; copies of legislation, ordinances, codes, and other documents on landslide-hazards mitigation. We invite your e-mail messages, or your telephone calls: 1-800-654-4966; William M. Brown III (Chief), 303/273-8587; Judy Denison, 303/273-8649; Fax 303/273-8600. Mailing address: National Landslide Information Center, USGS, Box 25046, MS 966, Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225-0046.

Camino María Díez
3202 Moderna Road
Burlington, Ontario
L7M 2V6

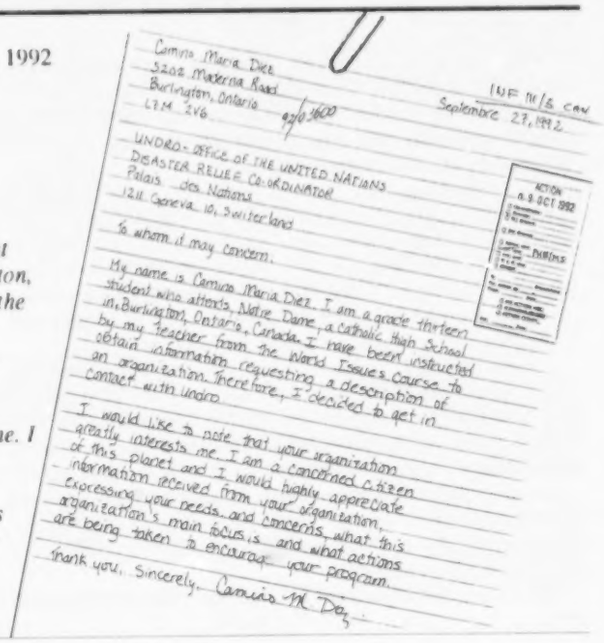
September 27, 1992

To whom it may concern:

My name is Camino María Díez. I am a grade thirteen student who attends, Notre Dame, a Catholic High School in Burlington, Ontario, Canada. I have been instructed by my teacher from the World Issues course to obtain information requesting a description of an organization. Therefore, I decided to get in contact with UNDRO.

I would like to note that your organization greatly interests me. I am a concerned citizen of this planet and I would highly appreciate information received from your organization, expressing your needs and concerns, what this organization's main focus is and what actions are being taken to encourage your program.

Thank you, sincerely, Camino M. Díez


Camino Maria Diez
3202 Moderna Road
Burlington, Ontario
L7M 2V6

September 27, 1992

UNDRO - OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

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Thank you. Sincerely, Camino M. Diez

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